

20. (Amended) A method for providing communication protocol-independent security for data transmitted between a first node and a second node, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication channel between a first network node and a second network node;

F⁶ establishing a first stream from a first process to the communication channel after the establishment of the communication channel, wherein the first stream is encrypted after the first process and before entering the communication channel and the encrypted first stream is independent of any communication protocol layers; and

establishing a second stream from the communication channel to a second process after the establishment of the communication channel, wherein the second stream is decrypted after the communication channel and before entering the second process.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein:

the first stream is a first Java stream;

the second stream is a second Java stream;

F⁷ the step of establishing a communication channel between the first network node and second network node further comprises the step of establishing a Java secure channel between the first network node and second network node;

the step of establishing the first stream comprises the step of establishing the first Java stream after the first process and before the Java secure channel; and

the step of establishing a second stream comprises the step of establishing the second Java stream after the Java secure channel and before the second process.

24. (Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for providing communication protocol-layer independent security for data transmitted between a first node and a second node, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

F⁸ establishing a communication channel between a first network node and a second network node;

establishing a first stream from a first process to the communication channel after the establishment of the communication channel, wherein the first stream is encrypted after the first process and before entering the communication channel and the encrypted first stream is independent of any communication protocol layers; and

establishing a second stream from the communication channel to a second process after the establishment of the communication channel, wherein the second stream is decrypted after the communication channel and before entering the second process.

26. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein:

the first stream is a first Java stream;

the second stream is a second Java stream;

F⁹ the step of establishing a communication channel between the first network node and second network node further comprises the step of establishing a Java secure channel between the first network node and second network node;

F⁹ the step of establishing the first stream comprises the step of establishing the first Java stream after the first process and before the Java secure channel; and

the step of establishing a second stream comprises the step of establishing the second Java stream after the Java secure channel and before the second process.

28. (Amended) A communications network providing communication protocol-independent security for data transmitted between a first node and a second node, the communication network performing the steps of:

establishing a communication channel between a first network node and a second network node;

F¹⁰ establishing a first stream from a first process to the communication channel after the establishment of the communication channel, wherein the first stream is encrypted after the first process and before entering the communication channel and the encrypted first stream is independent of any communication protocol layers; and

establishing a second stream from the communication channel to a second process after the establishment of the communication channel, wherein the second stream is decrypted after the communication channel and before entering the second process.

30. (Amended) The communication network of claim 28, wherein:

F¹¹ the first stream is a first Java stream;

the second stream is a second Java stream;

the step of establishing a communication channel between the first network node and second network node further comprises the step of establishing a Java secure channel between the first network node and second network node;

F 11 the step of establishing the first stream comprises the step of establishing the first Java stream after the first process and before the Java secure channel; and

the step of establishing a second stream comprises the step of establishing the second Java stream after the Java secure channel and before the second process.

32. (Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processor, provide communication protocol-independent security for data transmitted between a first node and a second node, by performing the steps of:

establishing a communication channel between a first network node and a second network node;

F 12 establishing a first stream from a first process to the communication channel after the establishment of the communication channel, wherein the first stream is encrypted after the first process and before entering the communication channel and the encrypted first stream is independent of any communication protocol layers; and

establishing a second stream from the communication channel to a second process after the establishment of the communication channel, wherein the second stream is decrypted after the communication channel and before entering the second process.

34. (Amended) The computer data signal of claim 32, wherein:

the first stream is a first Java stream;

the second stream is a second Java stream;

4¹³ the step of establishing a communication channel between the first network node and second network node further comprises the step of establishing a Java secure channel between the first network node and second network node;

the step of establishing the first stream comprises the step of establishing the first Java stream after the first process and before the Java secure channel; and

the step of establishing a second stream comprises the step of establishing the second Java stream after the Java secure channel and before the second process.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 13-35 remain in the application. Claims 1-8 and 13-35 stand rejected. By this Amendment, claims 2, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, and 34 have been amended and claims 21, 25 and 33, canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 13-19 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, "as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains or with which it is most nearly connected to make and/or use the invention." The Examiner then states that "at no point does the specification use the phrase 'communication protocol layer independent security'."

It is not clear if the Examiner is raising an enablement rejection or a written description rejection under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112. If the Examiner is